

CLAIMS

1. Activated carbon which is obtained by subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, wherein
5 the overall content of alkali metals in said activated carbon is 100 ppm or less.

2. The activated carbon according to claim 1,
wherein said alkali metals are sodium and/or potassium.

10

3. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting a carbonaceous material to an
activation treatment, and then washing the activation
treatment product thus obtained with a liquid that
15 contains carbonic acid to give the activated carbon.

4. Activated carbon which is obtained by subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, wherein
the overall content of heavy metals in said activated
20 carbon is 20 ppm or less.

5. The activated carbon according to claim 4,
wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal
selected from nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

25

6. The activated carbon according to claim 5,
wherein the nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

7. The activated carbon according to claim 5,
5 wherein the zinc content is 1 ppm or less.

8. The activated carbon according to claim 5,
wherein the copper content is 1 ppm or less.

10 9. The activated carbon according to claim 5,
wherein the iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

10. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting a carbonaceous material to an
15 activation treatment, and then washing the activation
treatment product thus obtained with a liquid containing a
basic substance to give the activated carbon.

11. Activated carbon which is obtained by subjecting
20 an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali
activation treatment, wherein in said activated carbon, the
overall content of heavy metals is 20 ppm or less, and the
content of alkali metals is 200 ppm or less.

12. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal
selected from nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

5 13. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein the nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

14. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein the iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

10

15. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein the zinc content is 0.3 ppm or less.

16. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
15 wherein the copper content is 1 ppm or less.

17. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein said alkali metals are sodium and/or potassium.

20 18. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein the silver content is 0.1 ppm or less.

19. The activated carbon according to claim 11,
wherein the carbon content extracted by an extraction
25 treatment using a hydrocarbon solvent is 0.2 wt% or less.

20. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable
carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment,
and then washing the activation treatment product thus
5 obtained with an acidic aqueous solution containing an
oxidizing agent to give the activated carbon.

21. The activated carbon manufacturing method
according to claim 20, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide
10 used as an activation assistant in the alkali activation
treatment is sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

22. The activated carbon manufacturing method
according to claim 20, wherein said acidic aqueous solution
15 is hydrochloric acid.

23. The activated carbon manufacturing method
according to claim 20, wherein said oxidizing agent is
hydrogen peroxide.

20

24. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable to an alkali
activation treatment, and then washing the activation
treatment product thus obtained with hot water, hot
25 hydrochloric acid and water in that order, to give the
activated carbon.

25. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous
material to an alkali activation treatment, and then
5 washing the activation treatment product thus obtained with
hot water, carbonate water, hot hydrochloric acid, aqueous
ammonia and hot water in that order, to give the activated
carbon.

10 26. An activated carbon manufacturing method,
comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous
material to an alkali activation treatment, and then
washing the activation treatment product thus obtained with
hot water, carbonated water, hot hydrochloric acid, aqueous
15 ammonia, hot hydrochloric acid and hot water in that order,
to give the activated carbon.

27. The activated carbon manufacturing method
according to any of claims 24 through 26, wherein the
20 alkali metal hydroxide that is used as an activation
assistant in the alkali activation treatment is sodium
hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

28. The activated carbon manufacturing method
25 according to any of claims 24 through 26, wherein the
temperature of said hot water is 30 to 95°C.

29. The activated carbon manufacturing method according to any of claims 24 through 26, wherein the temperature of said hot hydrochloric acid is 60 to 90°C.

5

30. The activated carbon manufacturing method according to any of claims 24 through 26, wherein the concentration of said hot hydrochloric acid is 0.5 to 3 N.

10 31. A polarizing electrode which is formed by mixing the activated carbon according to any of claims 1, 2, 4 through 9 and 11 through 19 with at least a binder and a conductive material.

15 32. An electrical double layer capacitor using the polarizing electrode according to claim 31.